

Appl. No. : 10/642,384
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A device for containing emboli within a left atrial appendage of a patient, comprising:

a frame that is expandable from a reduced cross section to an enlarged cross section, the frame extending between a proximal hub and a distal hub; and

a slider assembly coupled to the distal hub of the frame, wherein the slider assembly comprises:

a guide tube having a channel therein extending proximally away from the distal hub; and

a nut longitudinally moveable within the channel of the guide tube over a predetermined distance relative to the guide tube, wherein the nut is operable to be releasably coupled with an elongate core;

wherein movement of the nut relative to the guide tube is at least partially limited by interference between a portion of the nut and a portion of the guide tube, and wherein movement of the nut relative to the guide tube does not affect the device's shape.

2. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the guide tube includes at least one slot extending at least partially along a length thereof.

3. (Original) The device of Claim 2, wherein the nut includes at least one flange extending into the at least one slot, wherein movement of the nut within the at least one slot is at least partially limited by interference between the at least one slot and the at least one flange.

4. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the nut includes a mating surface adapted to couple with a corresponding mating surface of the elongate core.

5. (Original) The device of Claim 4, wherein the nut is internally threaded.

6. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the proximal hub includes a pin adapted to engage a control line.

7. (Original) The device of Claim 1, further comprising a barrier on the frame to contain embolic material.

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8. (Currently amended) An implant adapted to be positioned within an opening inside the body of a patient, the implant comprising:

a frame having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a slider assembly connected to a portion of the frame, the slider assembly comprising a receiving portion adapted to releasably engage a delivery device, the receiving portion being moveable relative to the frame to allow limited motion of the delivery device without substantially affecting the shape or position of the implant while the receiving portion is releasably engaged with the delivery device.

9. (Original) The implant of Claim 8, wherein the receiving portion is an internally threaded surface adapted to receive an axially moveable core that extends through the frame.

10. (Original) The implant of Claim 8, wherein the slider assembly comprises an outer tube.

11. (Original) The implant of Claim 10, wherein the slider assembly further comprising an inner member slideable relative to the outer tube.

12. (Original) The implant of Claim 11, wherein the inner member includes said receiving portion.

13. (Original) The implant of Claim 11, wherein the inner member is a nut slideable within the outer tube.

14. (Original) The implant of Claim 8, wherein the outer tube is connected to the distal end of the frame.

15. (Original) The implant of Claim 8, wherein the frame is enlargeable from a collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration.

16.-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A system for preventing the release of embolic material from the left atrial appendage of a medical patient, comprising:

an axially moveable core having a proximal end and a distal end;

an implant having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a slider assembly positioned within the implant, the slider assembly comprising:

a guide tube extending proximally from the distal end of the implant; and

a nut slideably received and substantially coaxially aligned within the guide tube, the nut being operable to releasably engage a distal portion of the axially moveable core;

wherein movement of the axially moveable core when engaged with the nut allows the nut to slide within the guide tube without substantially affecting the shape or position of the implant.

30. (Original) The system of Claim 29, wherein the guide tube includes at least one slot extending at least partially along a length thereof.

31. (Original) The system of Claim 30, wherein the nut includes at least one flange extending into the at least one slot, wherein movement of the nut within the at least one slot is at least partially limited by interference between the at least one slot and the at least one flange.

32. (Original) The system of Claim 30, wherein the at least one slot has a length of between about 3 to 35 mm.

33. (Original) The system of Claim 29, wherein the implant is enlargeable from a collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration.

34. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the implant comprises a frame extending between a proximal hub and a distal hub.

35. (Original) The system of Claim 34, wherein the axially moveable core is adapted to extend through the proximal hub and into the guide tube.

36. (Original) The system of Claim 34, further comprising a control line adapted to engage the proximal hub, and wherein the implant is enlarged by causing relative movement between the axially moveable core and the control line.

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37. (Original) The system of Claim 29, wherein the distal portion of the axially moveable core is externally threaded to mate with an internally threaded surface of the nut.

38.-47. (Canceled)